

News Release

Theatrical Performance of "Walden"

*By Itollefts on Tuesday, April 8, 2014*A conversation between Thoreau and Emerson in Thoreau's cabin before leaving Walden Pond

is the focus of Walden: The Ballad of Thoreau. A performance of the of the two-act, four-character play will take place on Tuesday, April 22, 2014, in Kiehle Auditorium at the University of Minnesota Crookston. The two performances at 12:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. have no admission charge and everyone is welcome. Free will donations will go to a designated sustainability project. Under the direction of Linnea Barton, Writing Center coordinator, the cast consists of Ian McCrae, associate professor at the Northwest Research and Outreach Center, as Emerson; Chris Sthultz, assistant professor in the Math, Science, and Technology Department, as Thoreau; Michael Laurich, a junior majoring in biology from Lansing, Ill., as J.B.; and Megan Luxford, a senior applied studies major from Columbus, Neb., as Rachel.



The play, written by Michael Johnathon, takes place during the final two days Henry David Thoreau spent at his cabin before leaving Walden Pond. It is an exploration of the roles each person plays protecting the earth, while challenging the audience to live a simpler life and preserve the environment. To learn more about the play, visit [www.waldenplay.com](http://www.waldenplay.com). Sponsors of the performance are Liberal Arts and Education Department; Business Department; Math, Science, and Technology Department; Agriculture and Natural Resources Department; Concerts and Lectures; Crookston Students for Sustainable Development; and the UMC Music and Theater Department. An Earth Day celebration, Having Fun Caring for the Earth, will take place from 9 to noon in the Sargeant Student Center. The celebration includes a poster contest for college and high school students with \$500 scholarships awarded to the winning posters; a sustainability fair; a Native American tribute and hot topic Earth Day mini lectures. All are welcome. For more information, contact Dana Trickey, College in the High School coordinator, at 218-281-8677. Today the University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers 29 bachelor's degree programs, 20 minors, and 36 concentrations on campus--as well as 13 degrees online--in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,800 undergraduates from more than 20 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit [www.umcrookston.edu](http://www.umcrookston.edu). *In the photo: Members of the cast of "Walden: The Ballad of Thoreau" are looking forward to their performance in Kiehle Auditorium in honor of Earth Day. Cast members are (left to right): Linnea Barton, director; Kenneth Mendez, who has been instrumental in the arrangements for the performance; Megan Luxford; Chris Sthultz, Michael Laurich, and Ian McCrae.*

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